

VISIT...

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Your Turn

Find an event happening in your school or community, like a play, that interests you. Attend this event and take notes of your observations. Write a news article telling others about it. Remember to grab your readers' attention with an interesting lead. Present important facts later in the article. Use the writer's checklist to check your writing.



Writer's Checklist

- ☒ **Ideas and Content:** Did I write about an event I attended in my school or community?
- ☒ **Organization:** Does my lead present the most important fact? Did I include enough supporting details in the rest of the article?
- ☐ **Voice:** Did I state the **facts** and avoid **opinions**?
- ☒ **Word Choice:** Did I choose the right words?
- ☒ **Sentence Fluency:** Did I provide a variety of sentence types?
- ☒ **Conventions:** Did I check to be sure that all pronouns agree with their antecedents? Did I proofread for spelling errors?

ANIMAL DEFENSES





Talk About It

How do animals defend themselves when they are scared or threatened?



Find out more about animal defenses at

www.macmillanmh.com





Vocabulary

glimpse	arousing
secluded	stunned
behavior	nestled
arroyo	unpleasant



Context Clues

You can figure out the meaning of an unfamiliar word by using **Context Clues** that appear within the same sentence. For example, “fishing” can help you figure out that *arroyo* means “stream.”

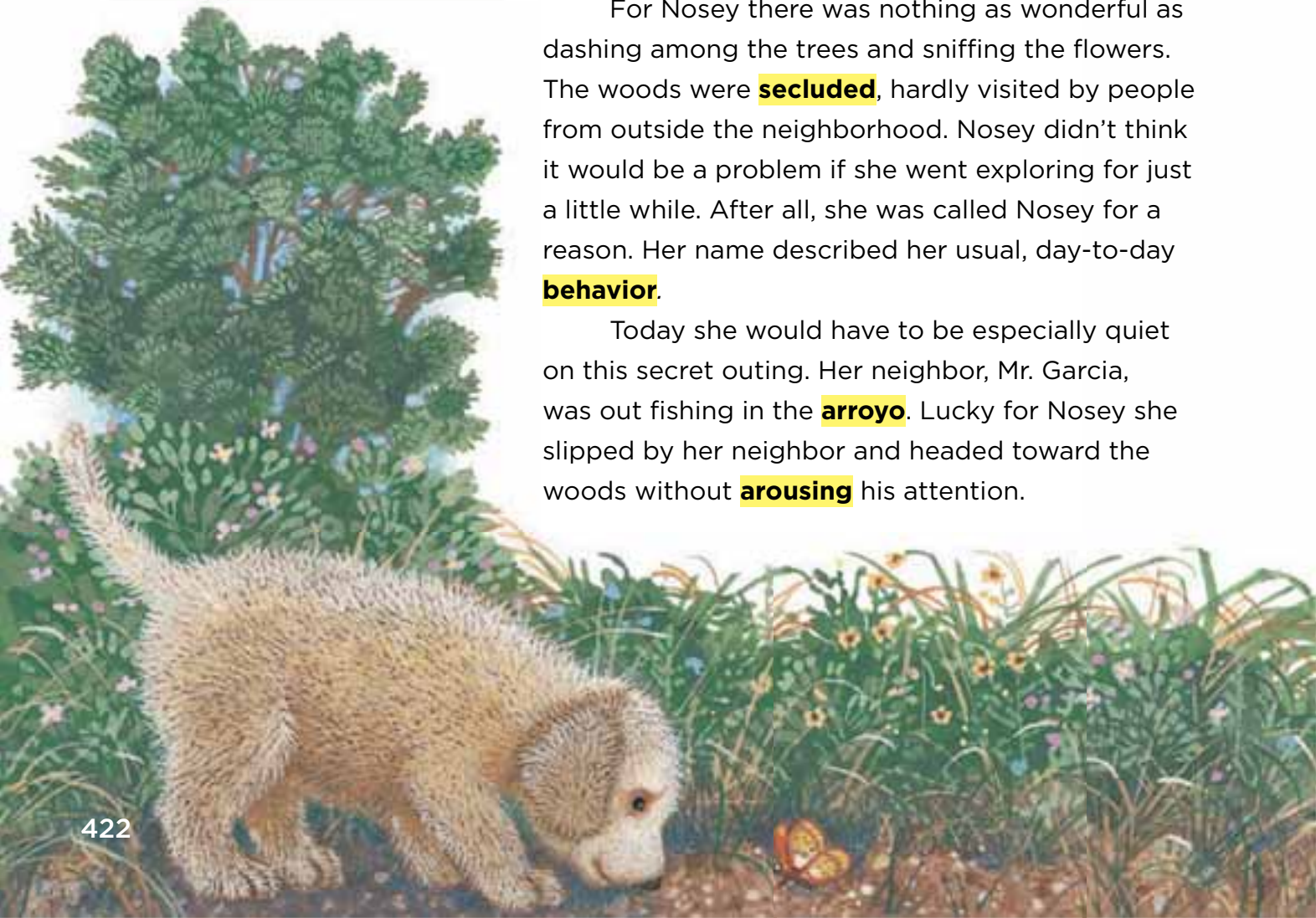
Nosey and the Porcupine

by Susannah Heil

Nosey knew that she was supposed to stay in the yard, but today the gate was left open. Every time the puppy moved her head to the left, she caught a **glimpse** of the woods up the street. She enjoyed this brief peek at the forest. It reminded her of the time her owners took her there when they went for a jog.

For Nosey there was nothing as wonderful as dashing among the trees and sniffing the flowers. The woods were **secluded**, hardly visited by people from outside the neighborhood. Nosey didn't think it would be a problem if she went exploring for just a little while. After all, she was called Nosey for a reason. Her name described her usual, day-to-day **behavior**.

Today she would have to be especially quiet on this secret outing. Her neighbor, Mr. Garcia, was out fishing in the **arroyo**. Lucky for Nosey she slipped by her neighbor and headed toward the woods without **arousing** his attention.



Soon after Nosey arrived in the woods, a butterfly landed on her nose. She reached for it with her paw, but it flew away. Then Nosey spotted it again on a berry bush. When she was within striking distance, she jumped. The butterfly fluttered out of Nosey's reach once more, but it was too late for the puppy to stop. She landed directly on top of the berry bush with a crash. At first, she was **stunned** by the sudden fall. Then she was shocked to find herself face to face with a sleeping porcupine! The porcupine was **nestled** snugly under the bush.

The arrival of a noisy visitor caused the porcupine to wake up. Nosey wasn't afraid of the small porcupine. However, she was curious. She had never seen a porcupine before so she gently sniffed at it with her

nose. By this time the porcupine had turned himself around. The quills on his tail were standing up, ready to be released. Suddenly Nosey found herself with a nose full of quills.

Nosey pawed at the quills, but they were firmly stuck. She had no choice but to head for home after this **unpleasant** experience. When Mr. Garcia saw her coming, he began to laugh. "Nosey," he said, "I see once again you've lived up to your reputation. You've had your nose exactly where it doesn't belong."



Reread for Comprehension



Evaluate

Author's Purpose

An author writes to inform, persuade, inquire, or entertain. An Author's Purpose Chart helps you evaluate the information in a story to figure out the author's purpose. Use your Author's Purpose Chart as you reread the selection to find the author's purpose.

Clues	Author's Purpose

Comprehension

Genre

Realistic Fiction tells an invented story that could have happened in real life.

Evaluate

Author's Purpose

As you read, use your Author's Purpose Chart.

Clues	Author's Purpose

Read to Find Out

What is the author's purpose for writing a story about Carlos?

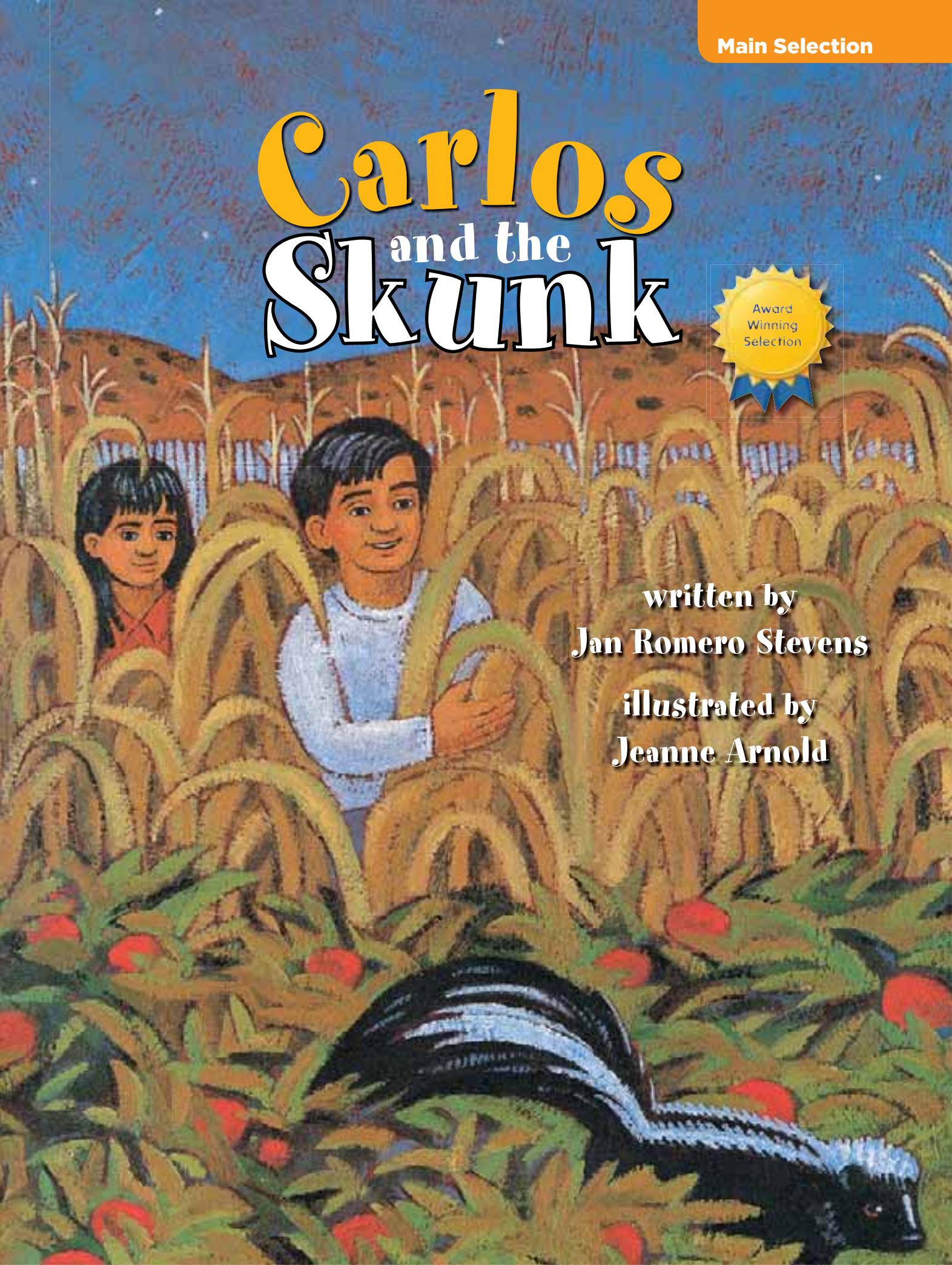
Main Selection

Carlos and the Skunk

Award
Winning
Selection

written by
Jan Romero Stevens

illustrated by
Jeanne Arnold



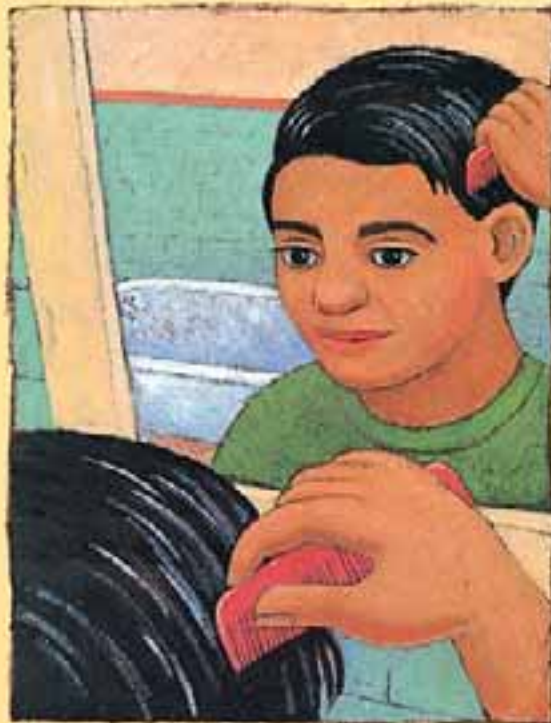


Carlos could not remember how long he and Gloria had been best friends.

When they were little, Gloria's mother would prop them up on old catalogs at the kitchen table while she strung red chiles together or rolled the dough for tortillas. If they were at Carlos's house, his mother would let them play in the garden while she sorted through the shiny green chiles, ripe red tomatoes, and sweet corn.

It seemed as if Carlos and Gloria were always together, but as they grew older, Carlos's feelings toward his friend started to change. He began gazing at himself in the mirror, combing his hair this way and that to see which looked better. He started showing off for Gloria, wanting her to notice how brave and smart he was becoming.

Carlos and Gloria lived in the fertile Española Valley nestled in the mountains of northern New Mexico. Their thick-walled adobe homes, with high tin roofs and matching gardens, were within walking distance from one another.



After school each day, Gloria and Carlos did their chores— weeding the garden, feeding the chickens, and doing their homework. After dinner, they were allowed to play.

One fall evening, when they were running through the cornfield playing hide and seek, they caught a **glimpse** of a striped skunk slinking through the shadows of the garden. The children had seen the skunk many times before. It had only two toes on its right front paw, and they had nicknamed it Dos Dedos (Two Toes).

Gloria feared the chance of **arousing** the skunk's anger and kept far away from it. But one afternoon, Carlos, wanting to impress Gloria, moved closer and closer until he could clearly see the narrow, single white stripe running from its head onto its tail.

"Carlos, you'd better be careful," whispered Gloria as Carlos inched along on his stomach toward the skunk.

"Gloria, don't worry. I know just how to catch a skunk," Carlos boasted. "You know what I heard? If you pick a skunk up by its tail, it can't spray you."

Gloria covered her mouth and giggled.

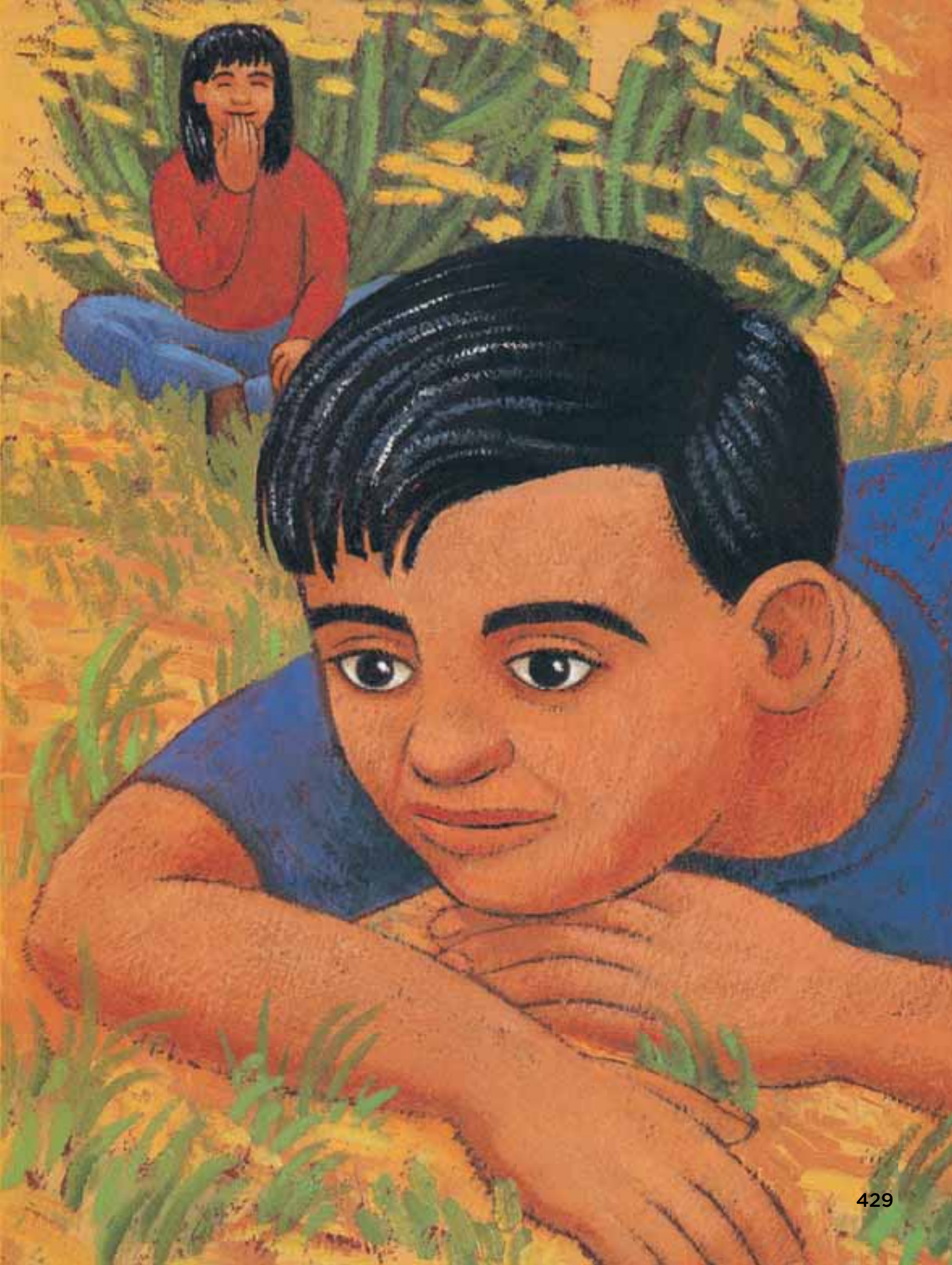
"Oh, Carlos," she said. "*No puedes creer todo lo que te dicen*— you can't believe everything you hear."

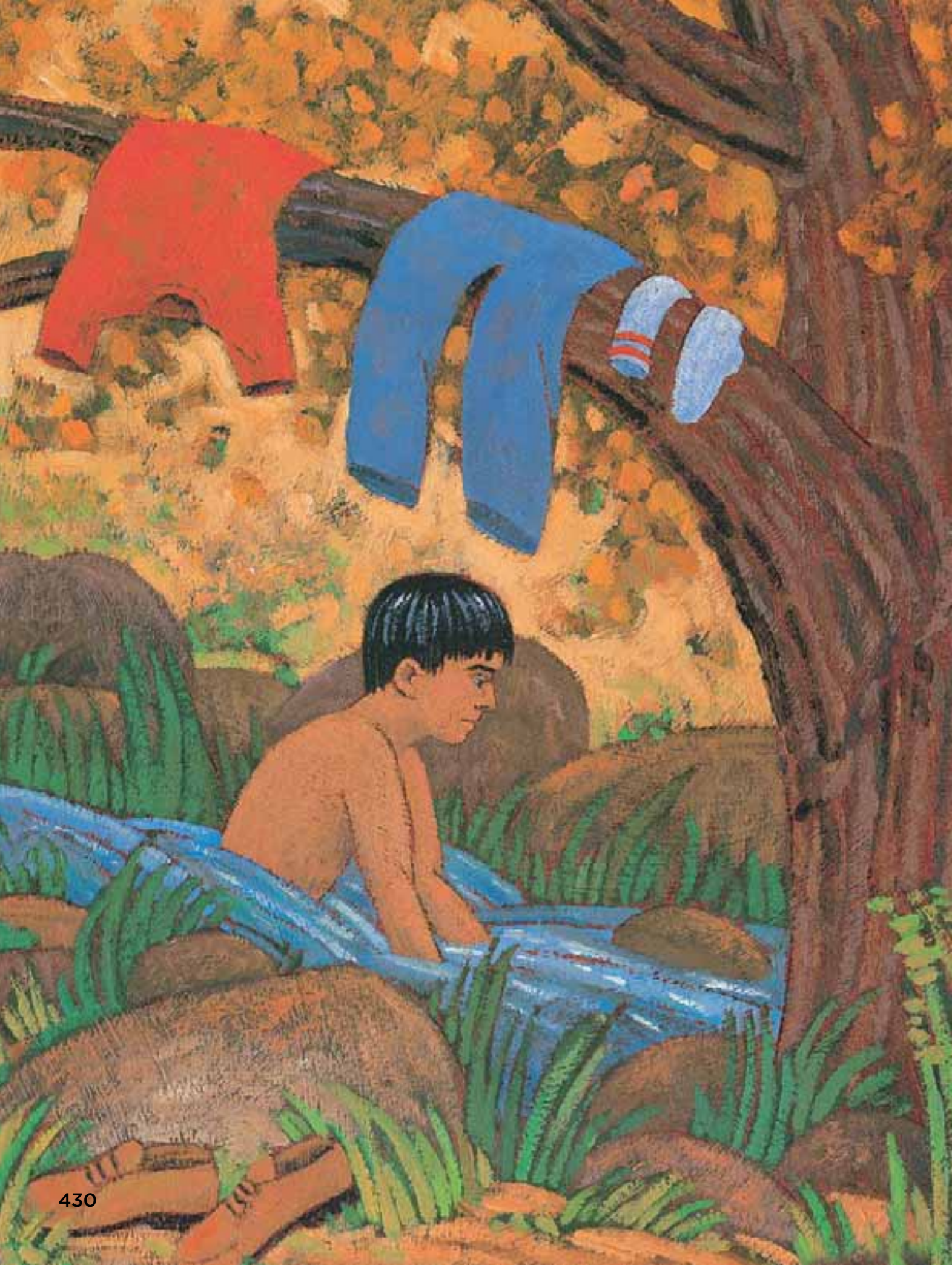
"But it's true," Carlos insisted to his doubting friend, and he became more determined than ever to prove himself right. He went to sleep that night still pondering over how to catch the skunk.



Author's Purpose

What do you think is the purpose in writing this scene? Why?





The next day, Carlos had planned to take Gloria fishing so he awoke early and got dressed. His mother prepared warm flour tortillas, fried eggs, and fresh salsa for breakfast. Salsa was a family tradition in Carlos's home. Made from tomatoes and green chiles grown in the garden, the salsa was spicy and tasty. Carlos spooned it on just about everything—from breakfast to dinner.

After breakfast, Carlos rushed outside to get his fishing pole and a can for worms. Rounding the corner of his house, he saw Gloria waiting for him by the gate. As they began walking down the road together, they saw Dos Dedos in the garden.

Qué suerte! (What luck!) thought Carlos. "I will catch Dos Dedos this time!"

Carlos gave no thought to what he might do with the skunk if he did catch it, but instead began creeping up behind it. He got closer and closer until he was inches away. For just a moment, Carlos hesitated, then winked at Gloria before he reached out and grabbed the tail. In an instant, the skunk's tail arched, and Carlos was sprayed from head to toe.

With a gasp, Carlos fell backward onto the ground. He was so **stunned** he hardly realized what had happened. He had never smelled such a strong odor. His eyes itched. He coughed and snorted and blew his nose. He did his best not to cry in front of Gloria.

Quite unconcerned, Dos Dedos disappeared down the side of an **arroyo**. And Carlos ran off to the river—leaving both Gloria and his fishing pole far behind.

Carlos chose a **secluded** spot and pulled off all his clothes as fast as he could. The smell of them was unbearable. He jumped into the stream and washed out his clothing, laying it out on a branch to dry in the sun. By afternoon his shirt and pants were dry, but the strong odor still lingered, especially on his shoes. He dressed and walked the long way home, climbing up and down the sides of the arroyos and stopping to gather piñon nuts. When he finally reached his house, he carefully took off his shoes and left them by the back door.

When his mother came into the kitchen, she noticed a strange smell, but before she could question Carlos, he slipped out the door and into the garden.

Carlos had heard that tomato juice helped to get rid of the smell of skunk, so he picked every ripe tomato he could find and sneaked into the bathroom. He squeezed the tomatoes into the bathtub and all over his hair, scrubbing himself as hard as he could with a washrag.

Beginning to think he smelled better, he crawled into bed and fell asleep quickly after his very **unpleasant** day.

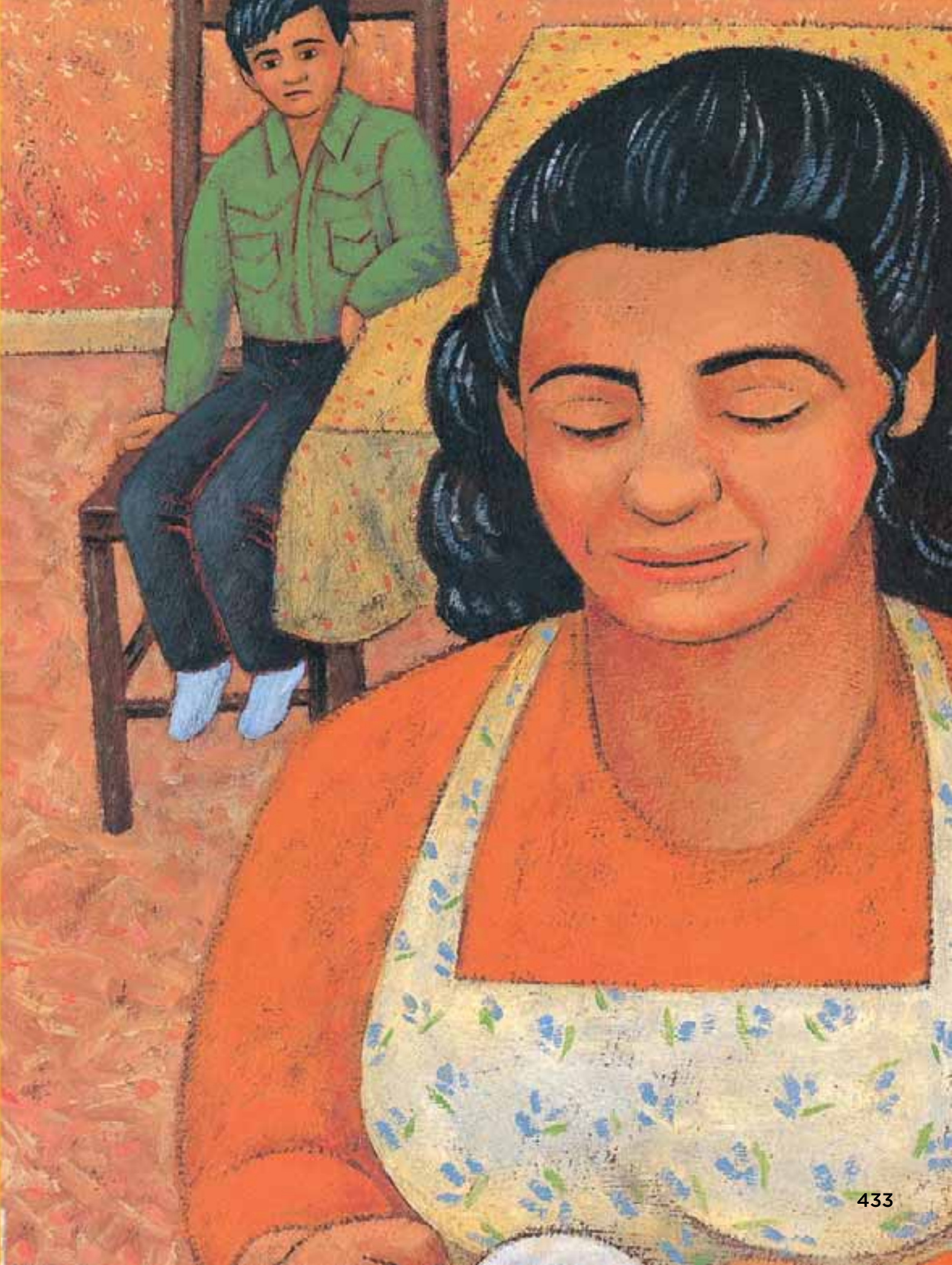
The next morning was Sunday, and Mamá was up early, patting and shaping the dough for tortillas.

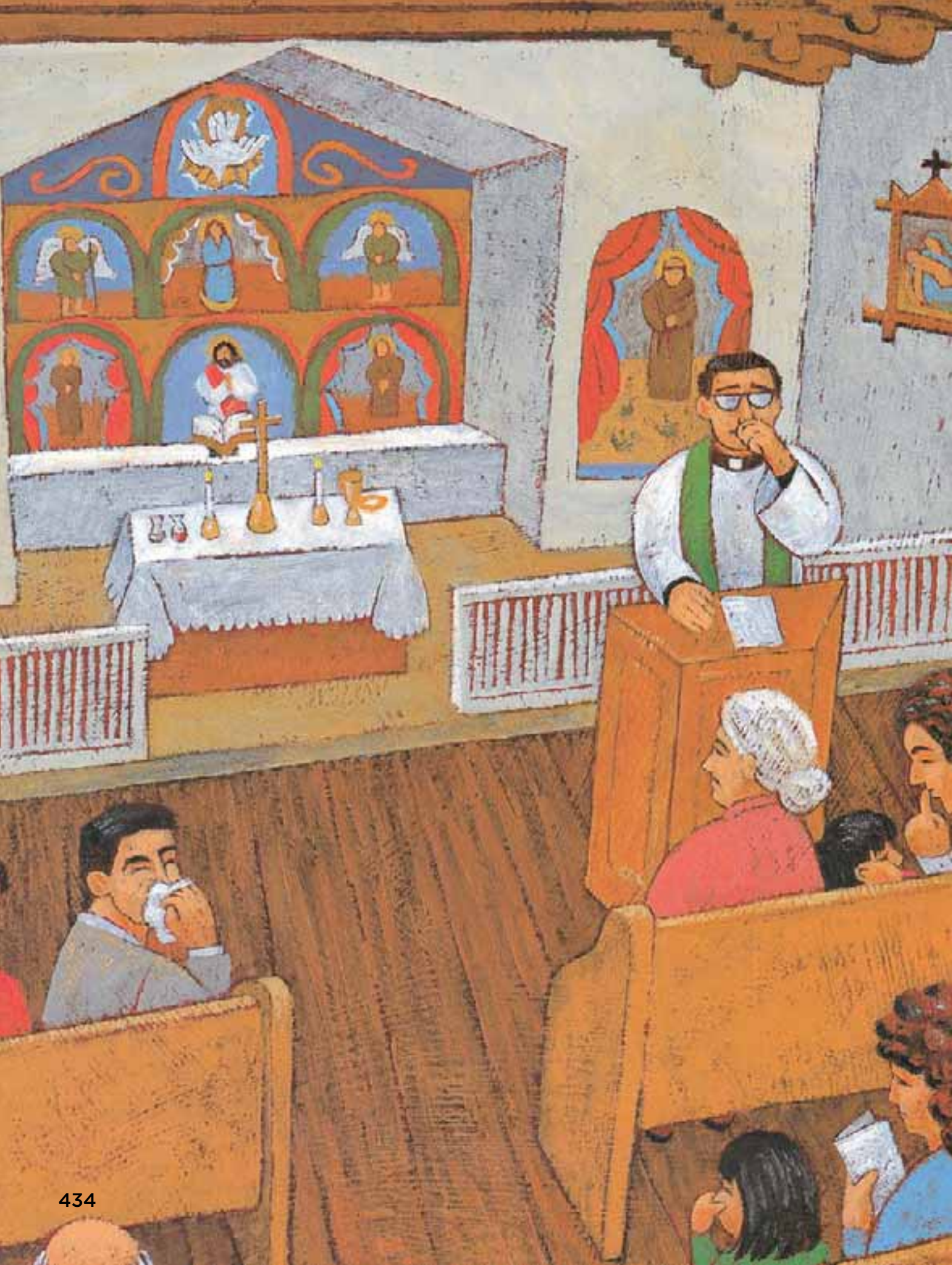
Dressed in his best shirt and pants, Carlos sat down at the table.

“Carlos, you look very nice for church this morning,” said Mamá as she untied her flowered apron. “Where are your shoes?”

“They’re outside, Mamá. I will get them when we leave,” said Carlos, feeling uneasy.







Carlos's family walked to the church near their home. When they arrived, they squeezed into a bench near the back. Carlos was pleased that he was able to sit next to Gloria.

But a most peculiar thing happened in church that day.

As the choir began a hymn, some of the singers began to make strange faces and cover their noses with handkerchiefs. The priest, as he walked to the altar, sneezed loudly and cleared his throat.

The people in the first few rows of the congregation turned to each other with puzzled looks. The women began vigorously fanning their faces with their church programs. The children started squirming and pinched their noses. Little by little the strange **behavior** began working its way toward the back of the church.

Carlos couldn't figure out what was going on until he looked down at his feet. He was sitting next to an air vent for the church's heating system. The smell from his shoes, which he had forgotten to clean after being sprayed by Dos Dedos, was spreading through the heating ducts to the entire church.

"Papá, I think we better go home," whispered Carlos, hoping no one would realize he was the source of the terrible smell.

Several families began heading for the door. The priest dismissed the service early.

Embarrassed, Carlos pushed his way out of the church. He heard Gloria calling to him, but he bolted through the door, and ran all the way home. He untied his shoes, pulled them off, and left them on the back doorstep. Then he hurried to his room and shut the door.



Troubled over how he might rid himself of the strong-smelling shoes, Carlos stayed in his bedroom until his mother called him for dinner. While they were eating, his parents noticed he was unusually quiet but said nothing to him.

Finally, when dinner was over, Papá turned to Carlos.

“Carlos, I’ve noticed your shoes are looking a little small,” said Papá, with a glance toward Mamá. “Isn’t it time for a new pair?”

Carlos nodded, breathing a sigh of relief.

“Oh, *sí, sí*, Papá,” he stammered. “My feet are getting too big for those shoes now.”

The next day, Carlos and Papá drove to town. After trying on several pairs of shoes, Carlos chose a pair of heeled cowboy boots that made him appear much taller.

A few weeks passed and Carlos forgot about his encounter with the skunk. One evening, after a big dinner of pinto beans, rice, tortillas, and his favorite salsa, he decided to visit Gloria. He put on his new boots and took a good look at his hair in the mirror. As he was getting ready to leave, his father called him outside.

“I need your help,” said Papá, and he pointed beneath the bushes alongside the house.

Carlos could just make out the shape of a small, black-and-white animal with three little ones that had made their home under the leaves.

“*Dios mío!*” (“Oh my goodness!”) said Carlos. “What will we do?”

“It’s no problem, Carlos,” said Papá. “You know what I hear? You can catch a skunk if you pick it up by its tail. You go first.”

Carlos’s nose and eyes began to water just with the thought of it.

“Oh, Papá, *no puedes creer todo lo que te dicen*—you know you can’t believe everything you hear,” Carlos said, and he drew himself up a little taller, smoothed back his hair, and headed for Gloria’s house.



Author's Purpose

What was the author's purpose in writing this story? Did the author write with a second purpose in mind?



Fresh Tomato Salsa

3 tomatoes, diced

¼ white or yellow onion, diced

2-3 scallions with green tops, chopped

1 medium clove garlic, minced

2 teaspoons vinegar

1 teaspoon vegetable or olive oil

3-4 sprigs of cilantro, chopped

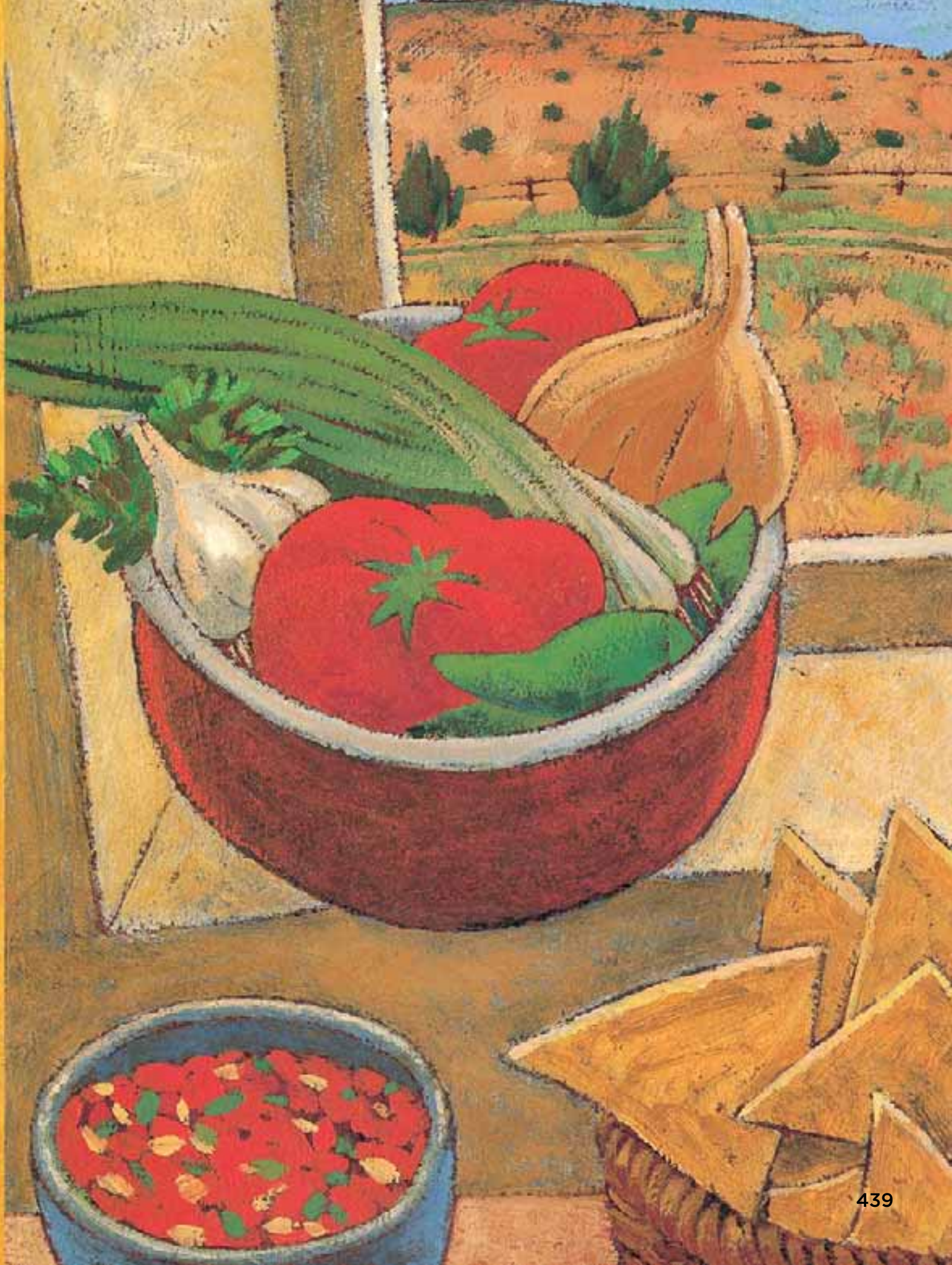
1 roasted green chile or 2 serrano chiles, diced
(or 2 tablespoons canned green chile)

1 teaspoon salt

¼ teaspoon pepper

Mix all ingredients in a food processor, leaving salsa chunky, or stir by hand. Chill. Spoon over anything—eggs, beans, tacos—or use as a dip for tortilla chips.





Trading Tales with Jan Romero Stevens and Jeanne Arnold



Jan Romero Stevens said there was nothing better than watching children enjoy her books, in both English and Spanish. Jan loved the Southwest and learned more about her Hispanic heritage by studying Spanish with her kids. To make the Carlos stories realistic, she based them on things that happened to her family and friends. Jan always enjoyed writing. Besides writing the “Carlos” series, Jan worked for newspapers and magazines as a reporter and editor.

Jeanne Arnold is an illustrator and a painter. Her work includes all three books in the “Carlos” series, as well as *When You Were Just a Little Girl* by B.G. Hennessy. Jeanne has spent time backpacking in the Southwest. This helps her capture the regional flavor of the “Carlos” books.



Other books by Jan Romero Stevens and Jeanne Arnold: *Carlos and the Carnival* and *Carlos Digs to China*



Author's Purpose

What clues help you to figure out the author's purpose for writing? How well did Jan Romero Stevens succeed in her purpose? Explain.



Find out more about Jan Romero Stevens and Jeanne Arnold at
www.macmillanmh.com



Comprehension Check

Summarize

Summarize the events of *Carlos and the Skunk*. Be sure the summary includes the most important information from the story.

Think and Compare



1. What was the Author's Purpose for choosing a skunk as the animal Carlos wants to catch? Use your Author's Purpose Chart to help explain your answer. **Evaluate: Author's Purpose**
2. Reread page 436 of *Carlos and the Skunk*. Explain why Papá asked Carlos if his shoes were too small. **Analyze**
3. Would showing off for a friend be worth suffering **unpleasant** consequences, such as being sprayed by a skunk? **Explain**
4. Explain why you agree or disagree with the advice, "You can't believe everything you hear." Include specific examples in your answer. **Analyze**
5. Reread "Nosey and the Porcupine" on pages 422-423. What characteristics do Carlos and Nosey share? How are their experiences with animal defenses similar? Support your answer with evidence from each story. **Reading/Writing Across Texts**

Clues	Author's Purpose





Science

Genre

Nonfiction Articles present facts about real people, animals, things, places, or events.



Text Features

A **Deck** is a short preview of a magazine article that is designed to grab readers' attention.

Headings are subtitles that break an article into different parts. They help readers organize information so it is easier to understand.

Content Vocabulary

camouflage
chameleon
mimicry

Animal Self-Defense

by Elle Wainwright

If you were a wild animal about to become someone's dinner, what would you do? Run? Hide? Fight? Animals may do any of these things when they feel threatened. Nature provides them with special weapons of protection.

Wild animals live dangerous lives. While they hunt for food, they must be careful not to be caught by another animal. To help them stay alive, animals have developed adaptations.

Hide and Seek

Some adaptations help animals hide. If an animal can remain unseen, it will be safe. Of course, an animal cannot really become invisible. However, it can seem to disappear by using **camouflage**. A baby deer can lie perfectly still in a bed of grasses and leaves. With its speckled fur, the little deer is almost invisible. A flounder swimming along the ocean shore is difficult to see. As it passes over sand, it turns a pale sandy color. When it swims over dark rocks, it turns dark. By changing its color, a flounder can avoid attacks by larger fish that would like to eat it. Some animals can hide without even moving! Both the **chameleon** and the octopus can quickly change their skin color and blend into the background.

Another kind of camouflage has to do with an animal's shape. Think of a bird hunting a butterfly for breakfast. The leaf butterfly has wings that resemble leaves. The bird is not looking for leaves to eat, so it will fly right past a leaf butterfly. A thornbug is another animal whose shape protects it from its enemies. Because thornbugs look like prickly thorns, their enemies stay away. There are also animals that change their shapes to hide. One inchworm stiffens up so that it is usually mistaken for a stick.

The octopus (above) and the chameleon (right) change color to blend into their surroundings.



What a Stink!

No one can forget the smell of a skunk. Skunks use their odor for self-defense. Have you ever wondered how skunks produce their smell?

These small animals have a physical adaptation that helps them protect themselves. They have two grape-sized sacs under the skin below their tails that hold a strong-smelling liquid. Skunks can shoot this powerful liquid spray and hit a target accurately from up to ten feet away.

How do skunks decide that it's time to get the jets firing? The distance of an enemy plays a big part in the decision. Skunks don't see well. When an enemy comes closer than four feet to a skunk, the skunk finally sees it. Then watch out! First, the skunk freezes. Then, it points its

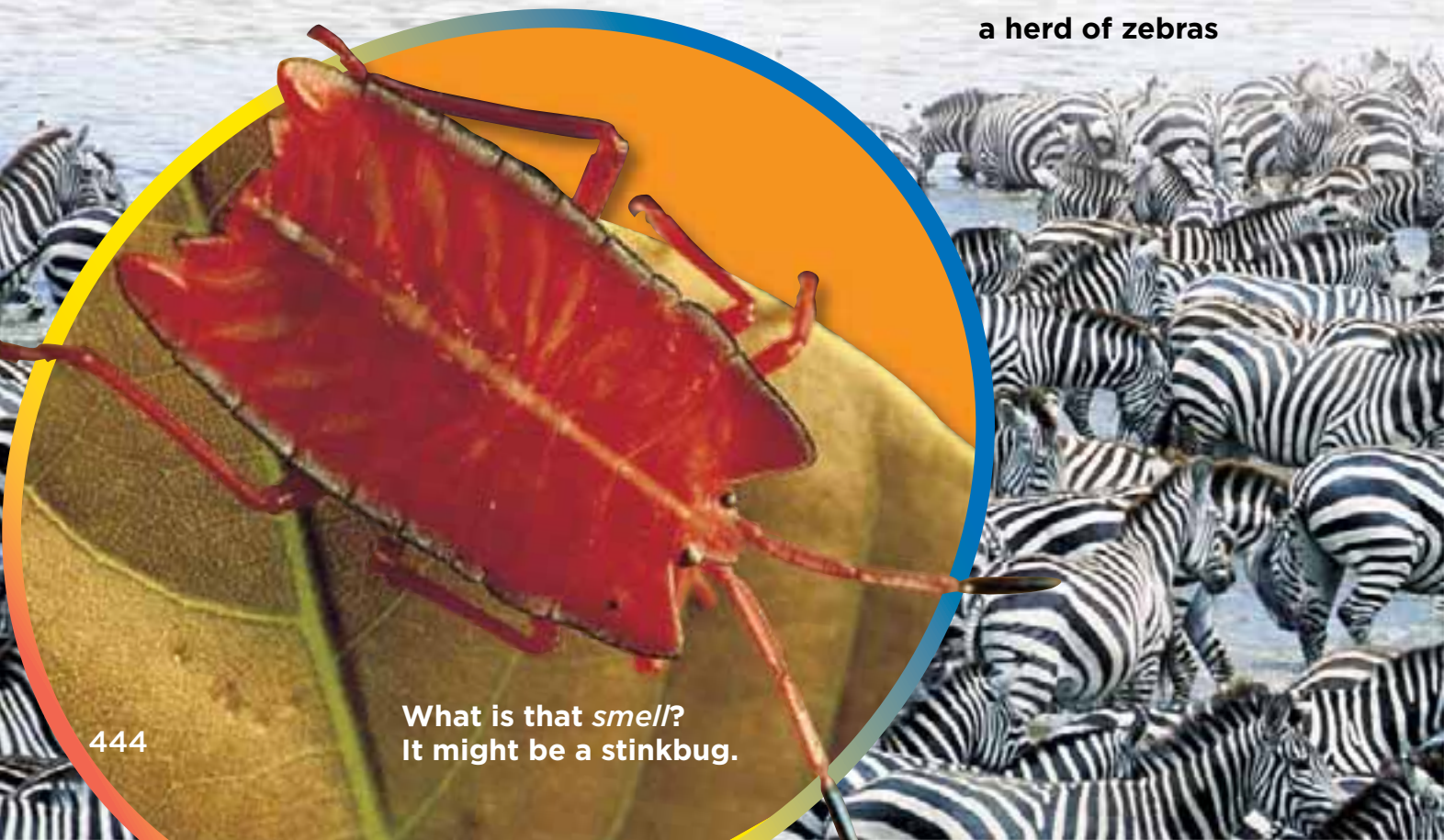
tail straight up as a warning. If the enemy doesn't go away, the skunk's tail bends over until it touches its back. Then the skunk turns around and squirts, stunning its enemy.

Skunks aren't the only animals that spray in self defense. Stinkbugs also spray a smelly liquid when threatened.

Catch Me if You Can!

What happens when a bird is surprised by a person or other animal it considers a threat? The bird flies away. Birds are one of many creatures that avoid danger by moving faster than their enemies. Some animals, such as zebras, travel in herds. If predators appear, the whole herd quickly flees. Most of the herd escapes. Only the slowest zebras get caught.

a herd of zebras



Ouch!

Would you touch a black-and-yellow-striped insect? Probably not because you know that yellow jackets can give you a painful sting.

Animals that eat insects also avoid yellow jackets. They avoid an insect called a syrphid (SUHR-fuhd) fly even though it is harmless. Why? The syrphid fly fools insect eaters because it looks like a stinging wasp. Looking like something else, especially something unpleasant, is called **mimicry**.

Animals have developed many other amazing ways to stay safe. Take a look at the animals you find in your neighborhood, even the insects. How do they defend themselves against other animals that want to attack them?



A syrphid fly (left) fools its enemies by looking like a wasp (below).



Connect and Compare



1. How do the headings used in “Animal Self-Defense” engage the reader’s attention? **Headings**
2. Of the adaptations you have read about, which kind of adaptation would you choose for yourself and why? **Evaluate**
3. If Carlos in *Carlos and the Skunk* had read the article “Animal Self-Defense,” do you think he would have picked up the skunk? Why or why not? Explain your answer.

Reading/Writing Across Texts



Science Activity

Do research on an animal or insect that uses adaptations to survive. Write a magazine article describing how the animal defends itself against its enemies.



Find out more about animal defenses at www.macmillanmh.com



Writer's Craft

Formal and Informal Language

When writers record scientific observations, they choose words that carefully describe what their five senses detect. Writers use **formal language** in scientific observations and avoid **informal language** that may show emotions.

When writing a scientific observation of a gray squirrel, I used formal language.

I chose exact words to describe the squirrel.

Write a Scientific Observation

The Gray Squirrel

by Adam P.

I sat in a lawn chair in my backyard to begin my observation of a gray squirrel. It was five o'clock in the afternoon. The squirrel I watched was about 20 inches long. It had a dark gray back with splotches of brown. Its stomach was a silver color. It had a thick, bushy tail.

The squirrel was running across the lawn when I first saw it. It paused about ten yards away from me and made a clicking sound. Then it sat up on its hind legs. It held an acorn in its front paws and gnawed on it. The squirrel heard me sneeze and quickly climbed up an oak tree and disappeared into a hole.

Your Turn

Observe an animal of your choice.

Write a paragraph in which you record your scientific observations. Remember to be precise and to use formal language in your descriptions. Choose words that describe what your senses detect. Use the writer's checklist to check your writing.



Writer's Checklist

- ☒ **Ideas and Content:** Did I observe the animal long enough to note plenty of details?
- ☒ **Organization:** Did I present my observations in a logical order?
- ☒ **Voice:** Did I use **formal language** and leave **informal language** and personal reactions out of my writing?
- ☒ **Word Choice:** Did I choose precise words to describe my observations?
- ☒ **Sentence Fluency:** Did my observations allow the reader to follow along at a steady pace?
- ☒ **Conventions:** Did I use subject and object pronouns correctly? Did I proofread for spelling errors?